(c) whether this programme was implemented in 169 districts.

(d) whether the production of foodgrains in these districts had improved; and.

(e) if so, what are the other measures that are being considered as a long term step to boost farm products in the country and by when the steps in this regard are likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The production estimates of foodgrains for 1988-89 are not yet due from the States. Therefore, it is too early to assess the impact of the programme in the identified districts.

(e) The Strategy for Agricultural Planning is being developed for different Agro-climatic regions as a long term measure. The country has been divided into different Agro-climatic regions and Planning Teams have been constituted to visit the regions and make suggestions to boost agricultural production. The suggestions made by the Planning Teams would be kept in view while formulating the strategy for agricultural production during the Eighth Five Year Plan.

Distribution of surplus land

1200. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:
SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the hectares of surplus land distributed among the landless as against the target, if any, at the end of 1988 stating the number of beneficiaries and how does it compare with the surplus land distributed during the year 1987;

(b) the estimated land still lying for distribution;

(c) the State Governments showing unsatisfactory progress in the distribution of surplus land to the landless and the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government to review the whole issue and to remove the deficiencies, if any, in the ceiling laws to accelerate the process of distribution of surplus land to the landless in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARI): (a) Under the 20-Point Programme during the Financial year 1987-88 against a target of 109539 hectares of ceiling surplus land 33265 hectares were distributed. During the current year against a target of 91655 hectares, 32132 hectares have been distributed till the end of January, 1989. Since inception 41.72 lakh persons have benefited from this programme.

(b) Around 245084 acres of land is presently estimated to be available for distribution after deducting from the area declared surplus, such areas as States report not distributable for various reasons.

(c) During the current financial year the performance of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Manipur, Punjab, Tripura, West Bengal, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Delhi and Pondicherry has not been satisfactory. While Assam and Punjab have attributed this due to the implementation machinery having been engaged in flood relief work, other States have not mentioned any reason for this inadequate progress.

(d) The implementation of land ceiling laws and distribution of ceiling surplus land is not only monitored under the 20-Point Programme but also during the Revenue Ministers Conferences. In the consensus arrived at the Revenue Ministers Conferences held in May, 1985, November, 1986 and December, 1988

various legislative and administrative measures were suggested to States to improve the implementation of ceiling laws and to accelerate the process of distribution of surplus land to the landless. In pursuance of this, States have been requested to consider among other steps setting up of Tribunals under Article 323-B of the Constitution and special benches of the High Court for expeditious disposal of ceiling cases, plugging loopholes in existing laws, identifying benami and farzi transactions done with a view to evade laws and to take remedial measures in this regard, review existing exemptions with a view to remove them, reconsider existing ceiling limits, and to strengthen the implementation machinery for more effective implementation.

Exploitation of agricultural labourers

1201. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the exploitation of agricultural labourers;

(b) if reply to (a) be in affirmative, what steps have been taken by the Government to remove the exploitation of agricultural labourers;

(c) whether Government are considering to bring any legislation for the welfare of unorganised agricultural labourers; and

(d) if reply to part (c) be in affirmative, what are the salient features of the proposed legislation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RADHAKISHAN MALAVIYA): (a) to (d) Agriculture labour is by and large unorganised and being unorganised, suffer from some disadvantages in the matter of wage payments, conditions of work and continuity of employment. There are already legislation for providing minimum wages, abolition of bonded labour, regulation and abolition of contract labour, regulation of working conditions of inter-state migrant workers, equal remuneration to women workers, maternity benefit to women workers, to take care of the welfare of unorganised labour, particularly the agricultural labour. Lack of effective implementation of labour laws in respect of agricultural labour and the consequent demand for bringing in a Central legislation for them have engaged the attention of the Government for quite some time. At the 37th Session of the Labour Ministers' Conference held at New Delhi on 7th November, 1988, it was *inter alia*, observed that the problem was not one of lack of Central legislation, but more of implementation of the existing labour laws, which cover agricultural labour and if implementation could be strengthened, this would in effect achieve what might be contemplated for in any Central legislation. The Government has also appointed a National Commission on Rural Labour to examine and suggest if any changes in the legislation are required and the deficiencies in enforcement of existing legislation.

Import and use of harmful insecticides

1202. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite Government's decision that no harmful insecticide would be allowed to be imported, some multinational Companies lobbied with some State Governments to revoke the Centre's ban;

(b) if so, the names of the State Governments importing harmful insecticides through private companies to whom import licences were given and which are not being used in the advanced countries; and

(c) the reaction of the Central Government in this regard and the steps being taken to ban import and use of such harmful insecticides?